

(No Model.)

C. A. STRASBURG.
MAIL BAG FASTENER.

No. 605,588.

Patented June 14, 1898.

Fig. 1.

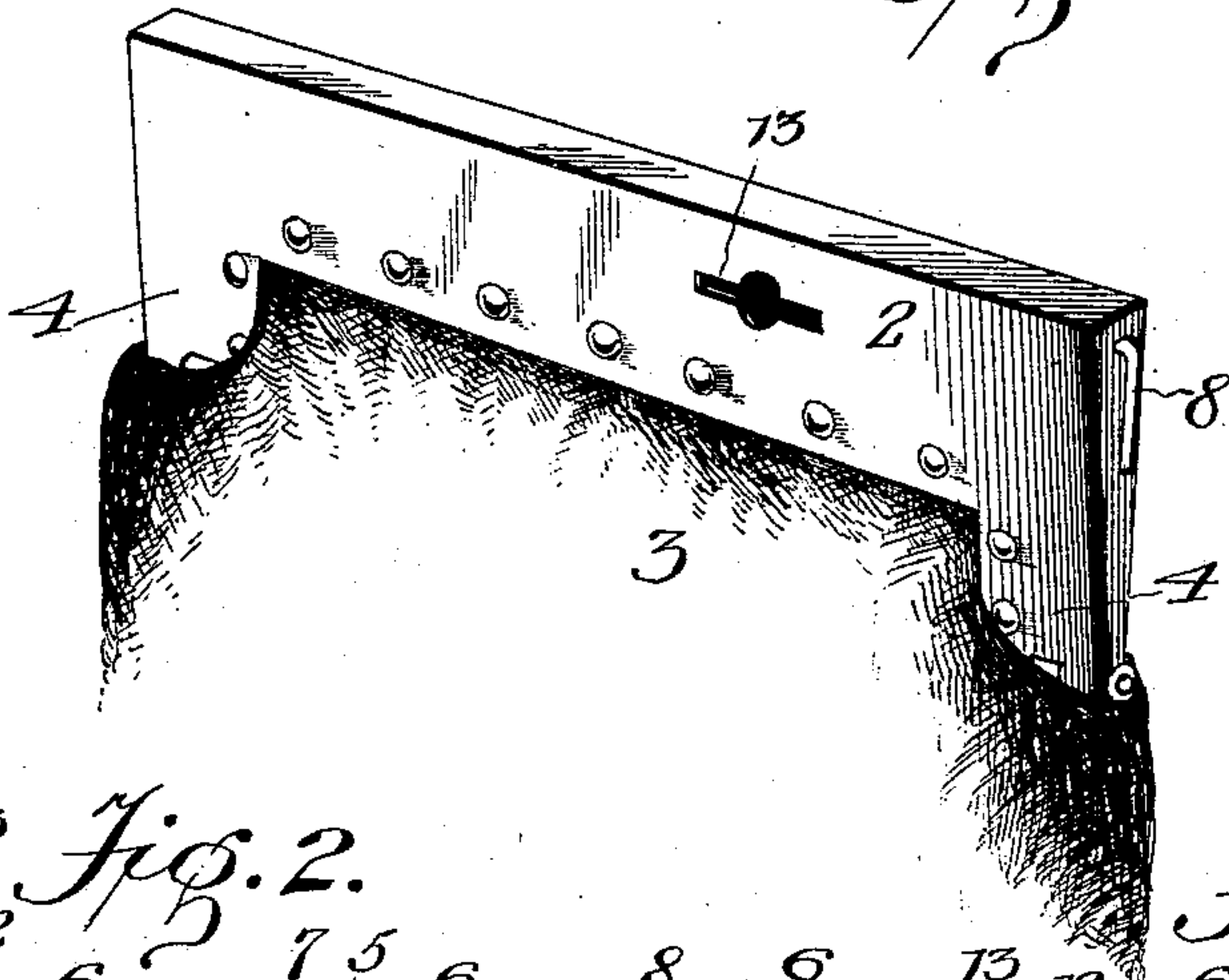


Fig. 2.

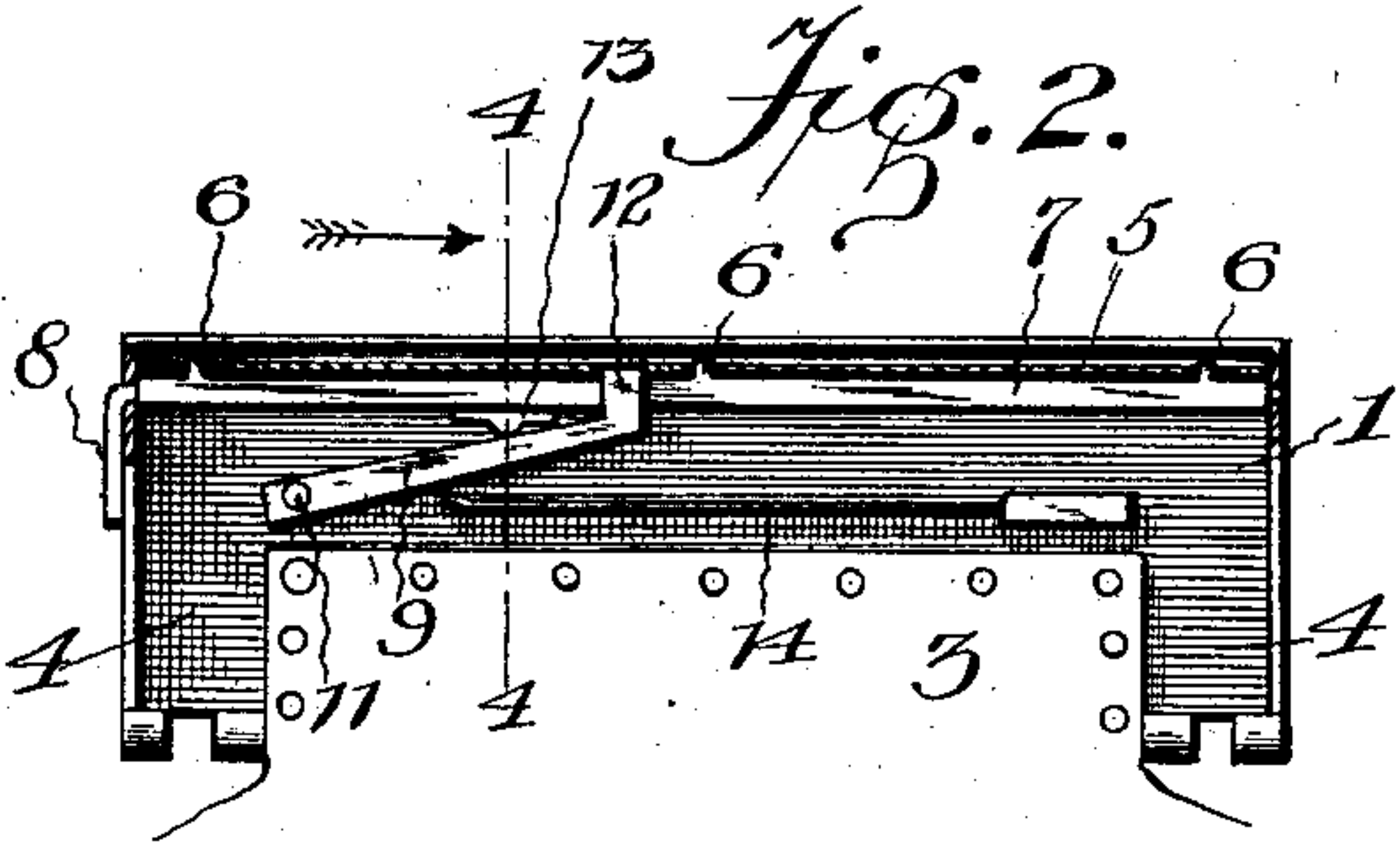


Fig. 3.

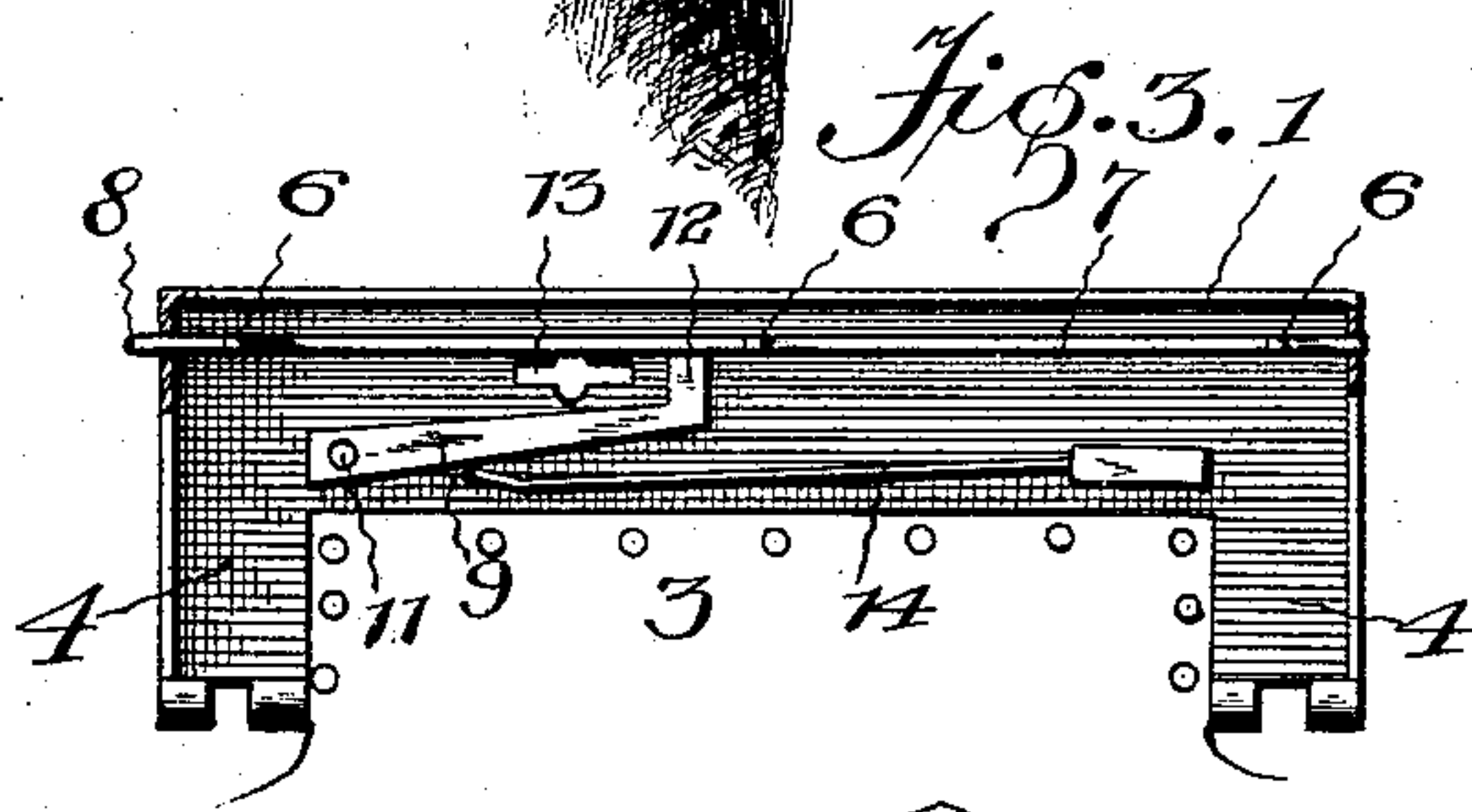


Fig. 4.

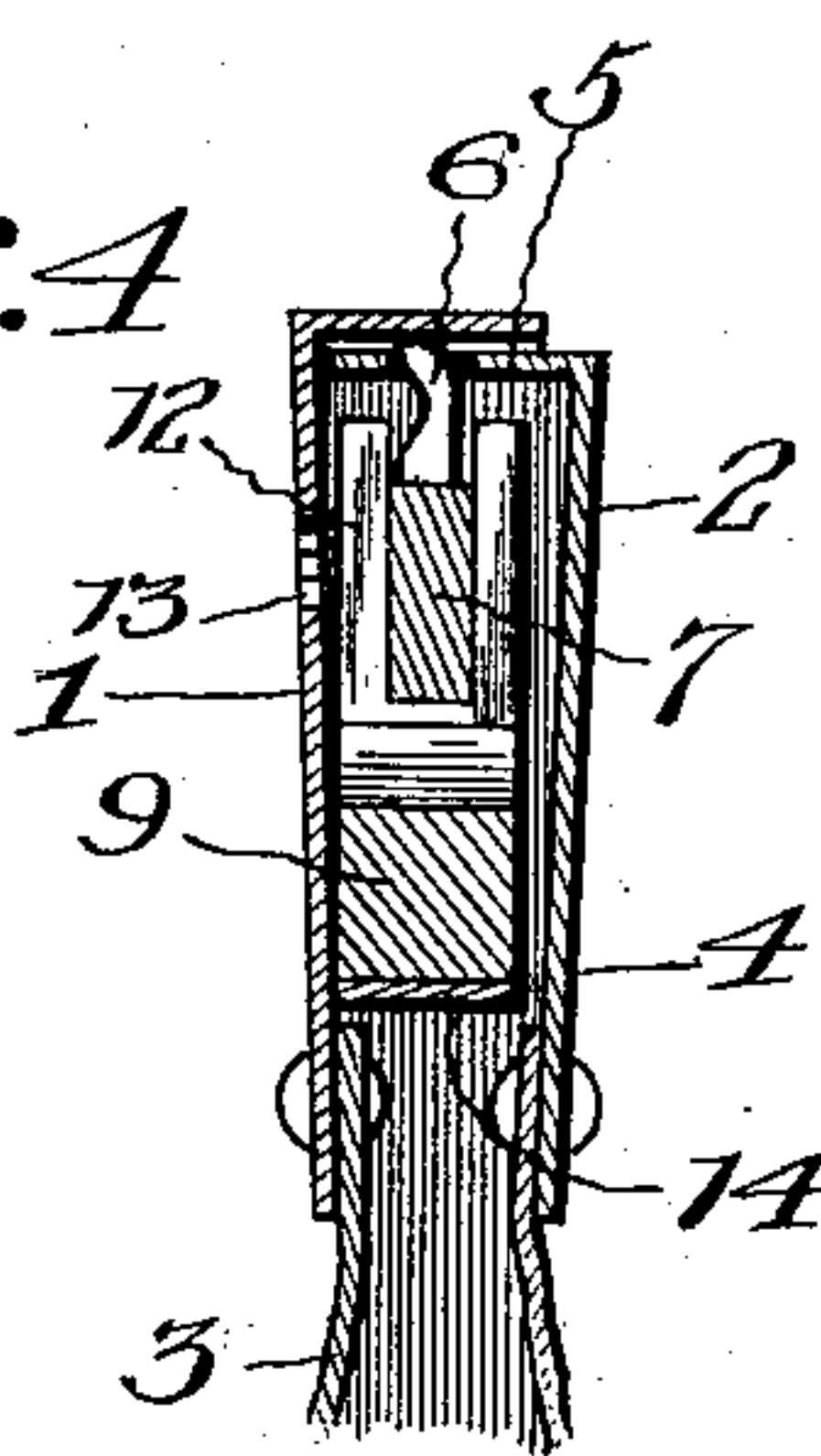


Fig. 5.

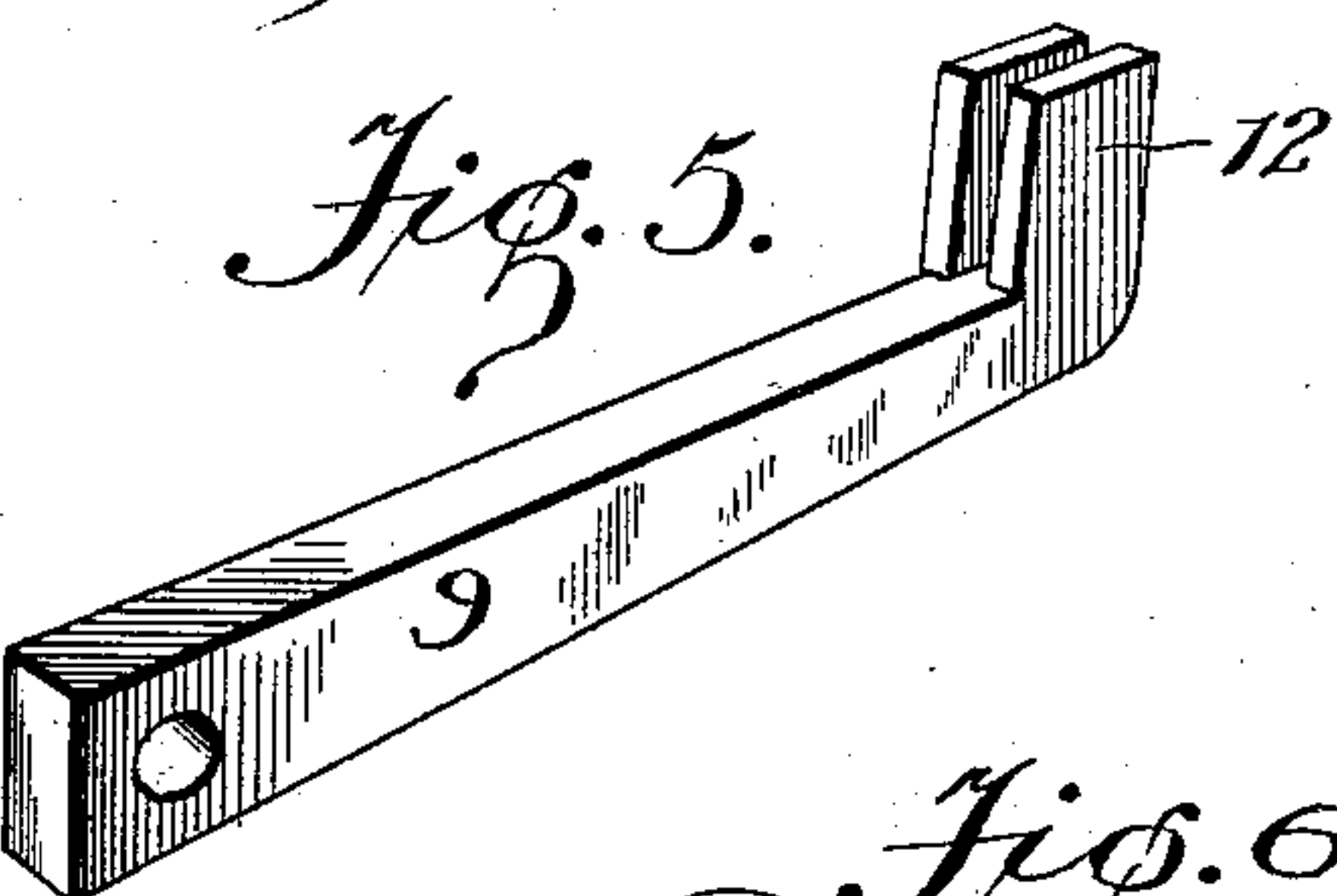
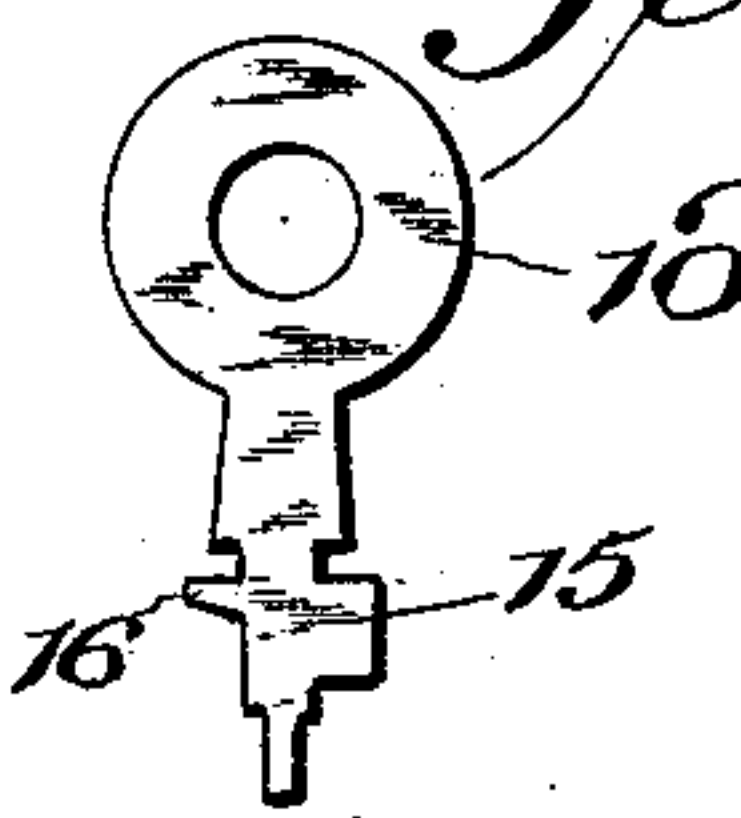


Fig. 6.



Inventor

Witnesses

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CHARLES A. STRASBURG, OF CRIDERSVILLE, OHIO.

MAIL-BAG FASTENER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 605,588, dated June 14, 1898.

Application filed November 4, 1897. Serial No. 657,405. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. STRASBURG, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cridersville, in the county of Auglaize and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Mail-Bag Fastener, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in mail-bag fasteners.

10 The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of mail-bag fasteners and to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient locking device adapted to be readily applied to mail-bags, valises, and similar receptacles and designed to obviate the necessity of employing the staples often used on mail-bag fasteners.

20 The invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

25 In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a mail-bag provided with a fastener constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view, the mail-bag being locked. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the position of the locking device when the mail-bag is open. Fig. 30 4 is a transverse sectional view on line 4 4 of Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of the tumbler. Fig. 6 is a detail view of the key.

35 Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 and 2 designate sections of a casing designed to be secured to a mail-bag 3 at opposite sides of the mouth thereof and provided 40 with depending arms 4, which are hinged together at their lower ends. The section 1, which carries the locking mechanism, is provided at its outer edges with top and side flanges, and the other section 2 is provided 45 at its top with an inwardly-extending flange 5, arranged to enter the section 1 of the casing at a point adjacent to the top flange thereof and adapted to be engaged by lugs 6 of a rock-shaft 7, which constitutes a bolt.

50 The rock-shaft 7, which is journaled at its ends in suitable perforations or other bearings of the side flanges of the section 1, is

provided at one end with a handle 8 and has the lugs 6 arranged at intervals, the flange 5 being provided with corresponding perfora- 55 tions for the reception of the lugs 6. Any suitable number of lugs may be provided, and they are entirely concealed within the lock-casing when the mail-bag is closed.

The rock-shaft or bolt 7 is preferably rec- 60 tangular in cross-section, and it is engaged by a tumbler 9, which holds the lugs in engagement with the flange of the section 2 of the lock-casing until it is disengaged from the rock-shaft or bolt by a key 10. The tum- 65 bler, which is pivoted at its outer end at 11 to the section 1 of the casing, is provided at its inner end with a bifurcated arm 12, arranged at right angles to the body portion of the tumbler, straddling the bolt or shaft and 70 engaging the side faces thereof, whereby the same is held against rotation in either direction.

The body portion of the tumbler is disposed substantially parallel with the adjacent por- 75 tion of the bolt or shaft, and the casing-section 1 is provided opposite the space between the tumbler and the bolt or shaft with a key-hole 13, which permits the engaging end of the key to be interposed between the tum- 80 bler and the shaft or bolt to depress the former against the action of a spring 14 and to rotate the shaft or bolt for carrying the lugs out of engagement with the section 2 of the casing. The spring is secured at one end to 85 the section 1 of the casing and has its other end free and bearing against the tumbler to hold the same in engagement with the shaft or bolt.

The key is provided with a rectangular lug 90 15 for engaging the tumbler, and it has an oppositely-disposed lug 16, which is beveled or tapered and arranged to engage the lower face of the rectangular bolt or shaft adjacent to one edge thereof, whereby when the key 95 is turned the bolt or shaft will be partially rotated. The locking of the mail-bag is effected by rotating the shaft or bolt by hand to carry the lugs into engagement with the flange 5 when the sections of the casing are 100 closed, and the tumbler is adapted to engage the shaft or bolt automatically when the lugs are brought into engagement with the flange 5.

Instead of making the entire shaft or bolt

rectangular only that portion adjacent to the keyhole and the arm of the tumbler may be so constructed, and the width of the shaft or bolt is designed to be greater than its thickness to prevent the arm of the tumbler from engaging it when the lugs are turned down, as illustrated in Fig. 3 of the accompanying drawings.

It will be clear that the invention has the following advantages: The locking device is simple, inexpensive, strong, and durable and adapted to be readily applied to mail-bags, valises, and analogous receptacles. The bolt and the engaged portion of the casing are located entirely within the latter and are concealed, and the device dispenses with the staples frequently employed in this class of locks.

Changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

What I claim is—

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of a casing composed of two hinged sections, a rotary bolt or shaft journaled in the casing and provided with a lug arranged at an angle to it and adapted to engage the free edges of the sections to lock the same closed, and a spring-actuated tumbler engaging the bolt or shaft and holding the same against rotation in either direction, said tumbler being adapted to be disengaged from the shaft or bolt by a key, substantially as described.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of a casing, a bolt or shaft journaled therein and provided with engaging lugs, said bolt or shaft having a polygonal

portion, and a spring-actuated tumbler provided with a bifurcated arm straddling the polygonal portion of the shaft or bolt and locking the same against rotation in either direction, said tumbler being adapted to be engaged by a key, substantially as described.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination of a casing having a keyhole, a shaft or bolt journaled in the casing at one side of the keyhole and provided with lugs, said shaft or bolt having a rectangular portion adjacent to the said keyhole, a spring-actuated tumbler mounted in the casing at the opposite side of the keyhole and provided with an arm engaging the rectangular portion of the shaft or bolt, and a key adapted to be interposed between the tumbler and the shaft or bolt and provided with opposite lugs for engaging the same, one of the lugs being beveled and arranged to rotate the shaft or bolt, substantially as described.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination of a casing composed of two hinged sections, one of the sections being provided with a perforated flange, a bolt or shaft journaled on the other section, provided with an exteriorly-arranged handle and having a series of lugs for engaging the perforations of said flange, and a spring-actuated tumbler engaging the shaft or bolt and locking the same against rotation, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES A. STRASBURG.

Witnesses:

CHARLIE BOOP,

CLARENCE OSENBAUGH.